



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
William A. Hinton State Laboratory Institute
305 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

JOHN W. POLANOWICZ
SECRETARY

CHERYL BARTLETT, RN
COMMISSIONER

Bureau of Infectious Disease
Division of Epidemiology and Immunization
Tel: (617) 983-6800
Fax: (617) 983-6840
www.mass.gov/dph/epi
www.mass.gov/dph/imm

To: Daycare Programs

From: Patricia E. Kludt, MPH
Director, Epidemiology Program

Date: August 2014

Re: **Regulations pertaining to the distribution of information about meningococcal disease and vaccine**

This is a reminder that Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 111, s.219 and related regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (105 CMR 221.300) require daycare centers to provide to a parent or guardian of their attendees information approved or provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regarding the risk of meningococcal disease and the availability, effectiveness and risks of meningococcal vaccine. Such information is to be provided at the time of initial enrollment.

For the purpose of this legislation, a daycare center “shall mean any facility or program operated on a regular basis, whether known as a day nursery, nursery school, kindergarten, child play school, progressive school, child development center, pre-school, or entity known under any other name which receives children, not of common parentage, under seven years of age or under 16 years of age if the children have special needs for non-residential custody and care during part or all of the day separate from their parent(s).”

Attached is a fact sheet developed by MDPH, which provides information regarding the risk of meningococcal disease and the availability, effectiveness and risks of meningococcal vaccine. This document and others like it can be accessed by going to <http://www.mass.gov/dph/epi> and clicking on the meningitis link.

Questions regarding this requirement, meningococcal disease or meningococcal vaccine can be directed to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at (617) 983-6800.